



PHOTO BY JIM ROBERTSON

Paris Police Officer
Angeline Bouchard
Paris Police Department

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The transition from policing a university campus with an enrollment of roughly 29,000 to policing small-town Kentucky with a population of less than 10,000 was an adjustment for Paris Police Officer Angeline Bouchard. But a change in pace didn't slow her down. Since she joined the city in April 2012, Bouchard has dedicated herself to the Paris community and finding her niche on the streets.

I predominantly work patrol, getting out there and making contacts with people. We are big observers — everything from someone who might need help to possible crimes, something out of place — anything like that. It's very vast. That's one of the reasons I love this job so much. There's a million things to do.

University policing has a lot of positive aspects. You learn how to deal with all types of people, especially in large masses. From ball games to concerts to moving days, it is constantly busy. Plus, UK is right downtown in Lexington and is an open campus. So you have people just coming to or from work, passing by, lost or visiting. I really learned a lot about communicating and working with people. The university's primary goals are student safety and helping those coming in and out of campus. Working in the city is a lot different. Here we have to protect the whole city and everyone in it. It's very exciting and refreshing. You never know what's coming.

I was 6. I wanted to be a professional baseball player and my mom broke the news to me that girls couldn't play professional baseball. I remember standing in my living room balling my eyes out. I was living in New Hampshire at the time and I remember crying, "This is not fair!" My mom said, "Isn't there something else you want to do, sweetie?" My uncles are rangers for the Army. They're twins and they're like big brothers to me. After coming back from Desert Storm, one of them was a police officer. I always thought that was really cool. I remember saying, "Yeah, I want to be a cop." My mom said, "Oh, ok." Now all these years later I can say, "See? It came true! Here I am."

In college, I interned with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and at UK in their detective bureau. It helped me in several ways, but two big

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ways. I encourage people who approach me about their son or daughter who wants to be a police officer to do an internship if they think policing is something they want to do. For one, it showed me my passion wasn't just a dream, I had a real passion for law enforcement. Whether it was working with a federal agency, a local agency or a campus organization, no matter what, I was passionate about all of it. So I knew I was on the right career track.

The second thing interning did for me was it helped me to build bridges and make contacts. In this job, that can be very beneficial. To know people at the court house, in child advocacy, the social security office — you want to know others in other police agencies because we have crime that goes over city and county boundaries — sometimes even state boundaries. If you make those contacts you can say, "I know an officer who works there, I'll give them a call." You have to make constant connections and constantly be building on them. Because of that internship, when I went to apply for a job, I was nervous about what to expect, but I had numerous people saying, "This is what's going to happen, keep your cool, do this, this and this." I couldn't imagine walking into the job blind. Not that I wasn't nervous and scared and absolutely terrified, but it definitely did give me confidence going into the job.

My mother and father were both in the Army. My father is still active duty. My grandparents were in. Loyalty and respect are very important in my family. Stay loyal to your family, faith and country. I apply those things to this job. I stay loyal to the uniform. I try to represent it the best I can. I respect my co-workers, obviously chain of command and people out there on the road, which can be a challenge. I am very humbled and honored to put the badge on every day and go out there. This job can be tough sometimes. Not every day is a great day. But at the end of it, I still get excited

to come to work and am very proud to be doing what I'm doing. That's how I've been raised, I definitely give that up to both my parents.

Kids are so innocent — even the ones that think they know things. Often times, I will be working a call and kids will come out, put their heads on the chain link fence and want to talk to you. That makes me a little softer — keeps a little gentleness about me. Being around kids, even in a bad situation where a child is upset, I always want to try to leave that kid happy. It is something I definitely look forward to — when a child is on scene, I talk to them and try to make them feel a little bit better.

DUIs are something I have taken an interest in. You constantly learn from them. Where I work night shift, I like to make traffic stops. Any kind of drug related activity is definitely a passion of mine. Getting some dope off the streets, no matter how much it is or who it was, always feels good. I look forward to that. It keeps it interesting.

I work with a great group of guys. There's a lot of pride that comes into it. I might not have been born and raised here, but this is my town. There are some guys who were born and raised here and a lot of guys aren't. But, I think we all have that sense of pride. These are our people. This is our city. And we're not going to tolerate that level of criminal [gang] activity here.

What's unique about Paris is that I feel like we're the spoke of the wheel. We have Winchester, Cynthiana, Georgetown and Lexington all surrounding us. We have a lot of people from the Maysville area who come here, too. There's no interstate around us. And right in the center of it all is Paris. We have a nice melting pot of everyone.

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